

THERAPEUTIC USE OF CANNABIS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday, June 27th, 1:00-4:00 PM

Legislative Office Building, Rooms 205-207

MINUTES

Members in attendance were as follows:

Robert Andelman, MD, State Board of Medicine
Gilles Bissonnette, NH Civil Liberties Union (proxy for Devon Chaffee)
Kelly DeFeo, APRN, Nurse Practitioner Association
Lt. John Encarnacao, Department of Safety
Michael Holt, Department of Health and Human Services (Clerk)
Colette Horgan, Exeter Hospital
Representative James MacKay (Chair)
Representative Mariellen MacKay
Senator John Reagan
James Vara, Department of Justice

Members absent were as follows:

Robert Duhaime, Board of Nursing
Stuart Glassman, MD, NH Medical Society
Peter Gosline, Monadnock Community Hospital
Lisa Kilar, Qualifying Patient
Andrew Shagoury, Public Member

Review and Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the March 28 meeting was moved by Rep. J. MacKay, with a second by Colette Horgan. All voted in favor.

Council Membership

Senator John Reagan replaces Senator Jeff Woodburn.

Representative Mariellen MacKay replaces Representative Donald "Ted" Wright.

Attorney Gilles Bissonnette serves as proxy for Attorney Devon Chaffee as representative of the NH Civil Liberties Union.

Rep. J. MacKay updated the Council that he had asked the Governor's Office about the status of Lisa Kilar (the Qualifying Patient representative on the Council) but had not received a response about any new appointments.

NH Medical Society, Therapeutic Cannabis Survey Results

Dr. Seddon Savage, MD, MS, presented the results of a survey of New Hampshire physicians and advance practice registered nurses conducted by the NH Medical Society regarding medical marijuana. The goals of the survey were to learn current and anticipated engagement by NH clinicians in the use of herbal marijuana for therapeutic purposes, and to assess clinician understanding of marijuana effects and side effects. There was an approximate 13% response rate to the survey. Key results of the survey include:

- Education is needed to enhance clinician understanding of (1) potential effects and side effects and (2) possible risks;
- Patient counseling is needed to ensure understanding of (1) potential effects and side effects and (2) possible risks; and
- Data collection and research are needed to determine actual effects, side-effects, and risks.

Hard copies of the presentation of survey results were not provided to the Council.

She also presented and provided a draft “Statement of Understanding” regarding potential benefits and risks of “herbal marijuana” for physicians and APRNs to use with their patients when considering the use of marijuana, as well as drafts of Initial and Quarterly Health Reports for use by providers in assessing their patient’s use of marijuana.

Rules Update

He-C 401, Therapeutic Cannabis Program - Registry Rules, was conditionally approved by JLCAR on June 20, 2014. Michael Holt indicated that the DHHS Commissioner would adopt the rule by the deadline established in the law (July 23, 2014) and would make the rule become effective at some later date (likely July or August 2015), subject to change based on the operational status of the Alternative Treatment Centers. Council members received copies of He-C 401 in their packets.

The Department is in the process of writing the rules for the Alternative Treatment Centers and hopes to distribute to Council members in time for the next meeting scheduled for August 1st.

It was noted that the Attorney General recommended that the Department not issue registry identification cards until ATCs are operational.

Paul Twomey (House Counsel) asked the question that while the Department is not required to issue cards, why wouldn’t the Department accept applications sooner so that when the ATCs are operational the cards can go out the door. Mary Castelli (Senior Division Director for the Department’s Office of Operations Support) responded that the provider must examine patients so that timeframe has to be considered as well. However, the Department hopes to get the rule in earlier than expected so the ATC process can move faster.

Legislative Update

Two bills related to the Therapeutic Cannabis Program passed this session: (1) SB 234, relative to procedural changes in the law governing therapeutic use of cannabis, passed effective July 26, 2014; and (2) HB 1296, relative to the Council’s membership also passed effective August 10, 2014.

Rep. J. MacKay adjourned the meeting at 2:10.